



IPW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takahiro KOJO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3611

Application No.: 10/614,872

Examiner: K. Hurley

Filed: July 9, 2003

Docket No.: 115888

For: VEHICULAR STEERING CONTROL DEVICE AND VEHICULAR STEERING
CONTROL METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

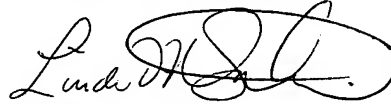
In reply to the October 5, 2004 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a vehicular steering system; and provisionally elect species drawn to Figs. 1-7, including claims 1-6 and 15-19, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-19 and species are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Saltiel", written over a horizontal line.

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Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/al

Date: November 3, 2004

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